

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 182 238

SO 012 338

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 TITLE The Land of the Armenians.
 INSTITUTION Armenian Relief Society, Inc., Boston, Mass.
 SPONS AGENCY Office of Education (DHEW), Washington, D.C.
 PUB DATE 76
 NOTE 58p.; For related documents, see SO 012 334-340; Maps of Armenia were removed by ERIC.
 AVAILABLE FROM Armenian Relief Society, Inc., 212 Stuart Street, Boston, MA 02116 (\$1.50)
 EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
 DESCRIPTORS Class Activities: *Cultural Awareness; Elementary Secondary Education: *Ethnic Studies: *Geography Instruction: *History Instruction; Instructional Materials: Map Skills: Social Studies; Student Projects
 IDENTIFIERS *Armenians: Ethnic Heritage Studies Program Act

ABSTRACT

This booklet for the upper elementary grades introduces students to Armenian history and geography. The document, one of a series of seven instructional materials dealing with the history and culture of American Armenians, is outlined in seven sessions. In Session I students read a geographic description of the historic Armenian homeland, color places on a map, and begin construction of a large topographical map. Session II contains a brief reading and worksheet on the mountains of historic Armenia. Students construct mountains for the relief map begun in Session I. Sessions III, IV, and V present readings and worksheets on earthquakes, volcanoes, lakes, seas, and rivers. Students carve out these areas on the relief map and begin painting. Session VI discusses Armenian mountain ranges and valleys and Session VII describes vegetation and animals. Students complete the relief map in this session. The pattern for the map may be obtained through the Armenian Relief Society, 212 Stuart Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. The booklet may be used independently of other materials in the series. (KC)

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Mountains, gorges,
turbulent rivers,
waterfalls, and lakes, and

Stones, stones,

A kingdom of stones!

Life would seem
impossible here.

Yet people have been
living here since
time immemorial.

They built dwellings,
fortresses and temples
of stone.

They planted and grew
vines, trees and grain —
in stone.

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THE LAND OF THE ARMENIANS

GLOSSARY OF PLACE NAMES

Names listed at the left below are the English transliterations of place names in historic Armenia which have been used in this text.

The reader may find that the same places sometimes have other names or spellings in various texts, indexes or maps. This is due to the fact that there is no common agreement concerning letters to be used to translate sounds from one alphabet to another; or because different names have been used by other nations to refer to the same places.

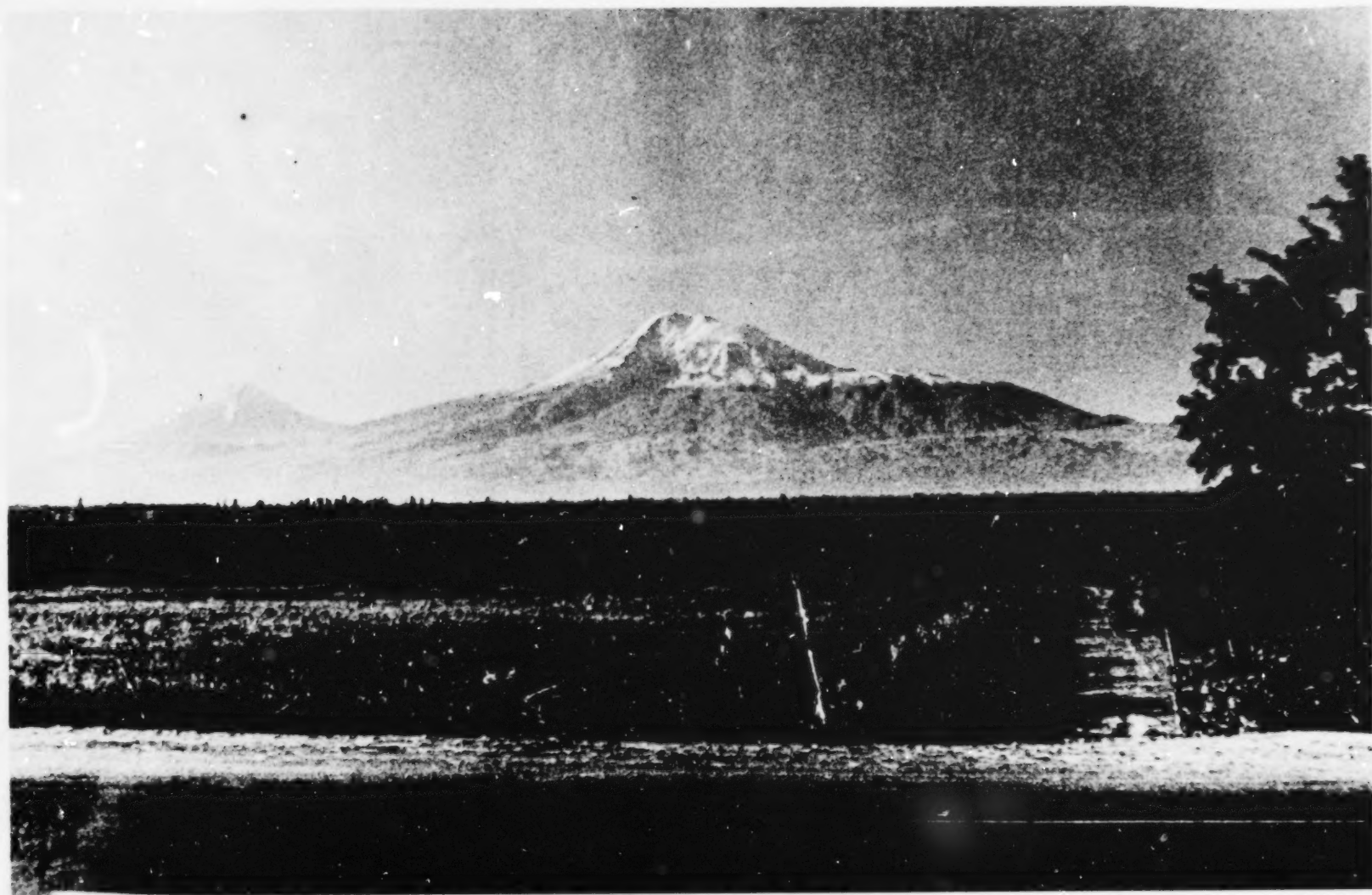
Note how to use the pronunciation guide in parenthesis beside each name:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| â — as in father | ē — as in meet | 6. Euphrates River: also Furat, and the southern tributary is called Murat |
| ü — as in rule | e — as the u in fur | 7. Herazdan River: (Ĥer-âz-dân); also Razdan, Zangoo and Zanga |
| d, — as in ladder | i — as in high | 8. Koor River: (Kûr); also Kur; Kura |
| e — as in bed | ō — as in toe | 9. Tigris River; also Dicle within Turkey |
-
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Halastan: (High-âs-tân); also known as Armenia | 10. Mount Aragatz (Ā-râ-gâtz); also Alaglaz; Alagoyoz |
| 2. Lake Sevan: (Se-van); also Gokcheh | 11. Mount Ararat: (Ā-râ-rât); Masis |
| 3. Lake Urmia: (Ur-mē-ya); also Urmi; Reza-i-yeh | 12. Mount Nimrud: (Nēm-rûd); also Nemrut |
| 4. Lake Van: (Vân) | 13. Mount Sipan: (Sē-pan); also Suphan |
| 5. Arax River: (Ā-râx); also Araxes; Aras | 14. Mount Surmantz (Ser-mântz); Bingol (Bing-yōl) |

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MOUNT ARARAT (also known as Masis) — Armenia's most famous mountain and, according to tradition, the resting place of Noah's Ark. Mount Ararat is now part of eastern Turkey, near the border of Soviet Armenia. Mount Ararat's Turkish name is Agri Dag.

NOTE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

This booklet is intended for use by students ages 9-13. It may be used at home as an individual or family project, or in Armenian history and geography classes. The lessons contained in the booklet have four main purposes:

- To help students know precisely where the ancestors of the Armenian people came from and to help answer the often asked question: "Who are the Armenians?"
- To help students locate and know the names of major places mentioned in Armenian history and literature so that all they learn will be more clearly envisioned and meaningful.
- To help students find the learning of Armenian geography and history an interesting and enjoyable experience by providing activities of interest to them.
- To stimulate *informal discussion* and *raise questions* through individual and group activities.

IN THE CLASSROOM

This booklet contains a considerable amount of material. However, it is quite simple if taken step by step.

In the classroom *Land of the Armenians* can be covered over seven sessions as outlined below. The readings and worksheets may be assigned for homework to free up more classroom time for discussions and questions. The worksheet questions are intended mainly for the older students. The map construction will serve as an ongoing review of, and incentive for, studying the material.

If all the work *must* be done in class, you may need a total of 10 to 14 sessions depending on your classroom schedule.

- Session 1. Reading on page 5; Worksheet 1 (page 6) and drawing of base-map (steps 1-2 on page 8).
- Session 2. Reading on page 9; Worksheet 2 (page 10) and construction of mountains (steps 3-7 on page 12).
- Session 3. Reading on pages 13-14 and class discussion. Work on base-map and mountains, if additional time is needed.
- Session 4. Reading on page 15; Worksheet 3 (page 16); work on base-map and mountains, if additional time is needed.
- Session 5. Reading on page 19; Worksheet 4 (page 20); begin coloring the topographic map (steps 8-11 on page 22).
- Session 6. Reading on page 23; Worksheet 5 (page 24); complete coloring the map (step 12 on page 22).
- Session 7. Reading on page 27; Worksheet 6 (page 28); complete the topographic map (steps 13-15 on page 29).

TEACHERS WITH LIMITED CLASSROOM TIME
— SEE PAGE 25

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THE ARMENIAN HOMELAND

Armenians call their country *Haiastan*, which means land of the Armenians. In poetry and literature, Armenia has been referred to as *Karastan*, which means land of stones.

The historic homeland of the Armenians is a mountainous "island," or tableland, standing higher than all its neighbors between the *Black Sea* and the *Caspian Sea*. Twenty high mountain ranges soar still higher above this plateau. They divide historic Armenia into several sections and separate it from countries beyond its borders. Over 900 volcanic mountain peaks, large and small, dominate the landscape.

In spite of the harshness created by this great mass of stone and rocky soil, there is color and beauty in the land. Many types of building stone: marble, basalt, granite and pumice may be found here; but it is the bright pink, orange and grays of the volcanic stone called *toof* (or *tufa*), used to build ancient fortresses and hundreds of churches, that provides the unusual color.

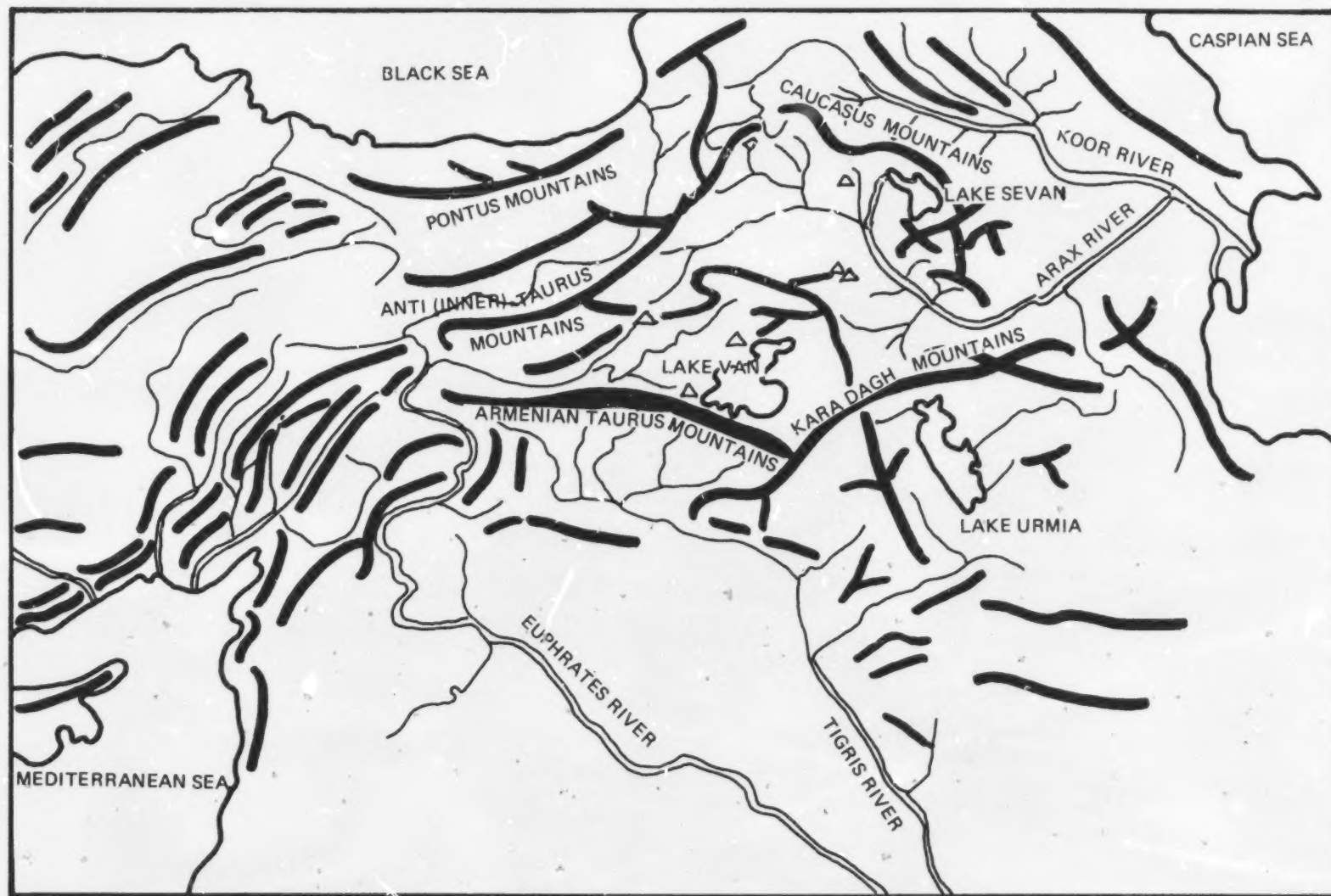
Armenians are people whose ancestors have lived on the lands described here since very ancient times. You may find their historic homeland by first locating the *Mediterranean Sea*.

Then look north-east, or to the right, for the lands between the *Black Sea* and the *Caspian Sea*. Historic Armenia was located there in the area east of the *Euphrates River* and between three lakes: *Lake Van*, *Lake Urmia* and *Lake Sevan*. This area is called the "historic homeland" of the Armenians because it is the land where Armenian speaking people have continuously lived and developed their culture throughout their history for over three thousand years.

About a thousand years ago many Armenians left their historic homeland because they were invaded by Seljuk-Turkish tribes from central Asia. These displaced Armenians resettled in cities and towns to the west and established an Armenian kingdom in Cilicia, along the northeastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, between the 11th and 14th centuries. From that time to the present there have been large Armenian communities outside of the historic Armenian homeland in various parts of the *Middle East*.

Today, a large section of historic Armenia is part of Turkey. The northeastern area is now called the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, or Armenia S.S.R., and is part of the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R.). The region around Lake Urmia, now called Rezaiyeh, is part of Iran (Persia).

HISTORIC ARMENIAN HOMELAND — WORKSHEET 1



Directions: Color the seas, lakes and rivers *blue*. Shade in the area enclosed by the Armenian Taurus, Caucasus, Kara Dagh and Anti-Taurus Mountains. This shaded area has been the historic homeland of the Armenians for about three thousand years.

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION (Continuation of Worksheet 1)

(Directions: Write your own answers below, then discuss the questions with the other students in your class).

Imagine yourself living in a town or village similar to those found in the foothills of Armenia's mountains, and that you are cut off from other towns or cities for 8-9 months of the year by snow, ice and high mountains. How would you provide for food, fuel and clothing? What would you do for entertainment? What kind of work would you and your neighbors have to do to survive? How would your life be affected by such an environment? _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or printed text on the paper.

What other areas of the world besides Armenia are situated in high, rugged, mountainous regions? _____

LAND OF THE ARMENIANS — SCALE MODEL

One interesting way to study the geography of a region is to make a scale model, or topographic map, showing the mountains, lakes, rivers and cities in the area. In the following pages you will find instructions for the construction of a simplified topographic map of the highlands occupied by the Armenians throughout most of their history.

Using paper and glue you can easily build approximate models of Armenia's many mountains and peaks, carve out the lakes, and paint the rivers. As you complete the map, you will become familiar with Armenia's terrain and learn to locate important places and geographical features.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

To begin construction of your topographic map, you will need the following tools and materials:

- Carbon paper, pins and pencil or ball-point pen.
- Smooth, white ceiling block (from a lumber yard) or a styrofoam board (from an art store) 2 feet wide and 3 feet long. You can also use wood, cardboard or any other stiff material available. However, only a soft or fibrous board will allow you to carve out basins for the lakes and affix the toothpick-labels described in the instructions. In any case, your board should be white so you can easily see the lines that you draw on it.

Note to teachers: You may find it more practical to obtain all the boards yourself, — one for each group of 2 or 3 students.

CONSTRUCT THE BASE MAP

1. Unfold the enclosed map and pin it on your board.
2. Copy the map onto your board by sliding a sheet of carbon paper under the map and tracing over the map in sections until the entire map is transferred onto the board. Remove the paper map and go over any of the copied lines that need darkening.



Next step — the mountains

**SCALE MODEL INSTRUCTIONS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

MOUNTAINS

"At the end of a hundred and fifty days the waters had abated, and in the seventh month on the seventeenth day of the month the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat . . ."

The Story of Noah and the Ark
Genesis 8

The most famous landmark in historic Armenia is *Mount Ararat* or "Masis", as it is also called. It is a spectacular twin peaked, snow-capped volcanic mountain which rises 17,000 feet into the sky, towering above the fertile plains of Armenia. The immense dome of "Greater Ararat" dominates the view in the Armenian capital city of Yerevan like a great giant. Its smaller twin, "Lesser Ararat", is an elegant cone, in the background. Ararat is the highest mountain in the Caucasus mountain region. Throughout history it has been the national symbol for the Armenian nation.

Another mountain which is famous in Armenian history and literature is *Mount Aragatz*. Its four peaks spread across 40 miles of northern Armenia. They soar above fertile valleys watered by many springs. Like Mount Ararat, it has been the subject of many songs, poems and folk tales. On its lower slopes is the world famous Byurkan Astrophysical Observatory, where all aspects of outer-space study take place.

Three other large mountains peaks are located near Lake Van, the area of some of the first Armenian Kingdoms:



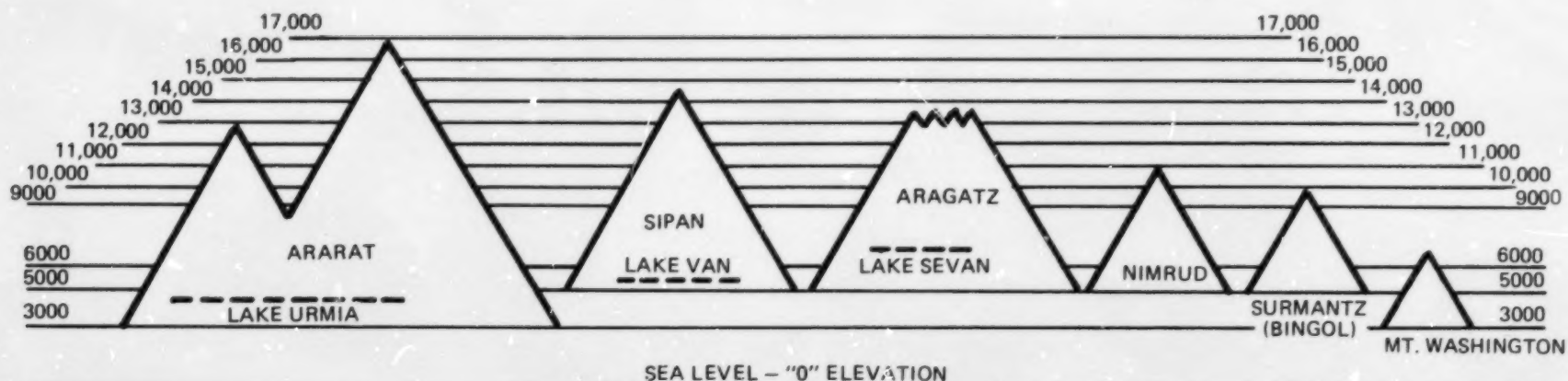
Northern peak of Mount Aragatz

Mount Sipan is situated north-west of Lake Van. It fills the waters of the lake with its melting snows during the summer months.

Mount Nimrud is a volcano which last erupted four hundred years ago. It is located west of Lake Van. It has a huge, five-mile wide crater at its top. Inside the crater is a large, deep fresh water lake.

Mount Surmentz is the highest peak of the Bingol Mountain Range. From its peak both the Arax and the two main branches of the Euphrates River begin. Mount Surmentz is 60 miles north-west of Lake Van.

MAJOR MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF HISTORIC ARMENIA — WORKSHEET 2



The chart above illustrates the heights of the five tallest peaks of historic Armenia, as compared with New Hampshire's Mount Washington, the highest peak in northeastern United States. Notice that while the elevations are measured from sea level (zero elevation), the peaks begin rising from their surrounding plateaus, which are themselves thousands of feet above sea level. After you complete the reading on page 9 and carefully examine the above chart:

1. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences:

- The plateaus which form the farmlands of Armenia are from _____ to _____ above sea level.
- The highest peak in historic Armenia is _____ which rises _____ feet above sea level.
- The second highest peak is _____ and rises to an elevation of _____ feet.
- By comparison, Mount Washington in New Hampshire is only _____ feet high.

Continuation of Worksheet 2

2. The three dashed lines in the chart represent the elevations of the water levels of historic Armenia's three lakes. Which of the three lakes is so high in elevation that it would cover Mount Washington?
3. What is the elevation of your city or town?

RESEARCH QUESTION

List below as many Armenian poems, songs and stories as you can, which refer to Mount Ararat, or Masis, Mount Aragatz (also called Alagoz or Alagiaz), Lake Van, Lake Sevan, Mount Sipan, Nimrud, or Surmantz (Bingol Mountains). To compile your list, ask your parents and friends and look through Armenian literature, poetry and song books. Compare your list with the other students' lists and see which peaks or lakes were the most important as evidenced by their frequent use.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____



Paper Mountains — Follow the instructions below to make mountains for your model with paper towel and glue. Your mountains will be smaller than the ones pictured above.

SCALE MODEL — THE MOUNTAINS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- White glue and a container for diluting it with water.
- Roll of white paper towel and scissors.

CONSTRUCT THE MOUNTAINS

3. Dilute 1 part white glue in 3 parts of water.
4. Roll up 3-inch strips of paper towel the same length as each mountain, dip in the diluted glue solution, squeeze out all the excess water by running the strip between your fingers, and lay it down over the lines representing the mountains. Be careful not to cover nearby lakes and rivers.
5. Shape the paper strip like a mountain by pinching and pressing it down on the board.
6. Similarly, use small squares of paper towel to make cones representing the peaks, and paste in their positions (Δ -marks on the map).
7. Put your map in a safe place to dry overnight or until your next session.



The four peaks of Mount Aragatz, the highest spot in Soviet Armenia.

**SCALE MODEL INSTRUCTIONS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22**

EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES

Armenians through the ages have experienced the fears that all people feel who live in areas where earthquakes occur frequently. The earth beneath their houses and lands may suddenly, without warning, begin to sway, tremble, and shake violently. Then, within a few seconds their homes and whole mountain sides may crash with a rumbling roar as they crumble and fall to earth, smashing and destroying anything and anyone beneath them.

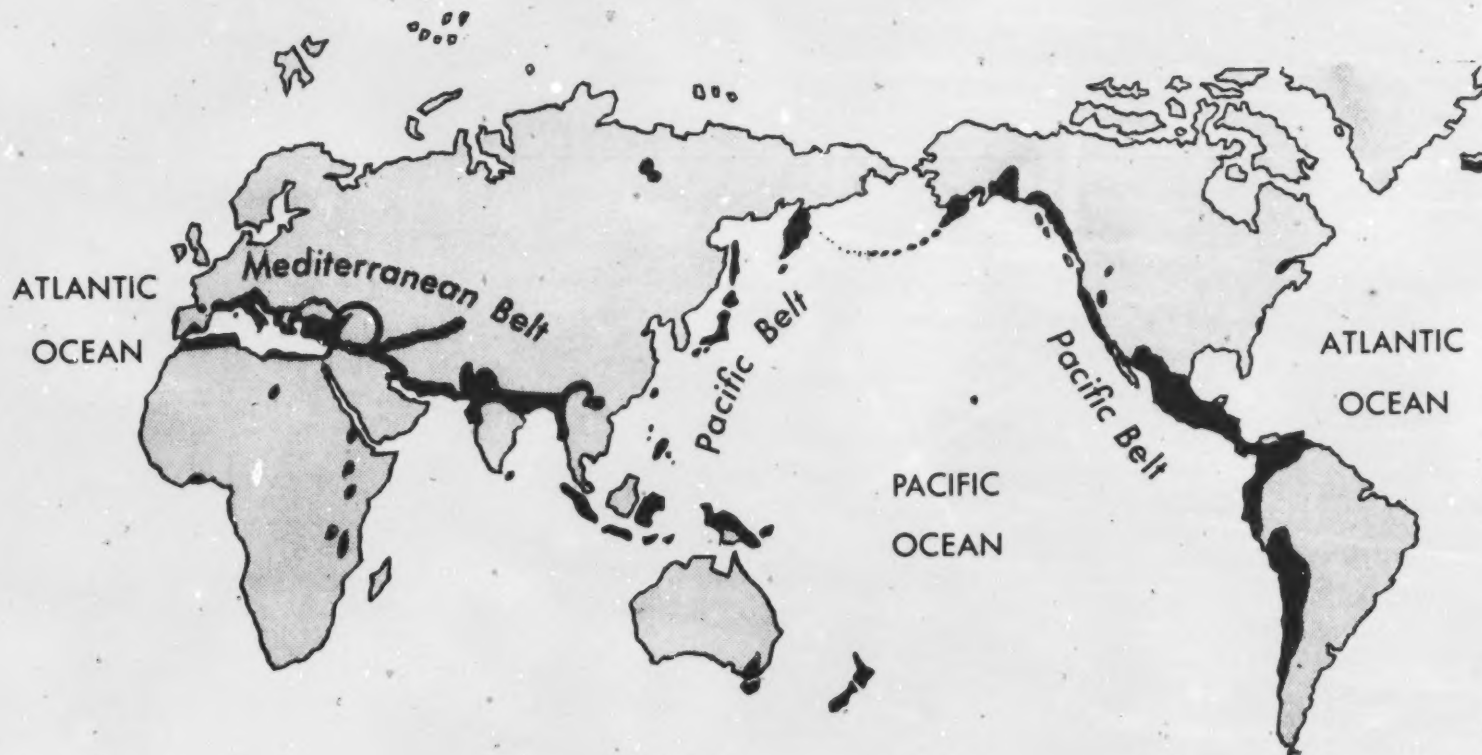
People did not always know the causes of earthquakes. In ancient times people guessed that perhaps the gods were angry and that it was the gods who made the earth shake. It is only in the last 100 years that scientists have learned the cause of earthquakes: rocks on the outer layers of earth are continually squeezed and pushed apart by forces caused by enormous degrees of heat in the center of the earth. When the strain becomes too great, rocks for miles along a *fault*, or crack-line in the earth's surface, break apart causing the earth and buildings above and around the area to collapse. The pressure also has sometimes pushed great areas of the earth's crust upward, forming whole new mountain ranges.

Earthquakes do not occur just anywhere on earth. One of the two major earthquake fault lines or *belts* that have existed since before man lived on earth stretches across the whole Medi-

terranean region and across and through Armenia to north-India and Far East Asia to Japan. A second fault line runs down the west coast of North and South America; it includes California in the United States.

Earthquake belts are also the place where volcanoes form. Volcanoes are caused by the pressure of extremely hot *magma* or melted rock that lies deep within the earth. The heat causes the melted rock to expand and shoot out to the surface of the earth wherever there are weaknesses or cracks in the surface. The eruption of hot lava rolls down the sides of the cracked earth and builds upon itself until a whole conical shaped mountain is formed. From time to time, over centuries, eruptions occur until no more pressure remains in the region. If a volcano has not erupted for many years, we say it is *dormant*, or sleeping. When the volcano seems to be quiet forever we say it is *extinct*.

Scientists believe that the mountains of Armenia were pushed up by earthquake and volcanic action about 25 million years ago. This was part of the same eruption which created the mountain ranges that stretch from Europe's Alps in the West to Asia's Himalayas in the East. At this time Armenia's terrain, or land, was shaped by many volcanoes. Volcanic cones and sheets of hardened lava flow may still be seen everywhere. The Armenian plateau is not completely



Armenia (see circled area) is situated on one of the two main earthquake belts of the world.

settled, even today. Five major earthquakes have been recorded there between 1926 and 1976. One recent quake destroyed over 100 villages and made over 50,000 people homeless. More than 5000 died under the falling rocks and buildings.

Powerful earthquakes have shaken Armenia throughout its history. In 1319 A.D. the capital city of Ani was destroyed by an earthquake; five hundred years earlier, another capital, Dvin, had also fallen to earthquake. In 1840 A.D. the ancient

village of Agor (or Akhori) located at the foot of Mount Ararat was buried when an earthquake caused the whole valley to fall into a chasm that opened up along the entire face of the mountain. This village was the site where Noah was said to have planted his vineyard after the Great Flood.

All but one of Armenia's volcanoes are dormant and probably extinct. A small volcano called Tondurik, between Lake Van and Mount Ararat still smokes and rumbles from time to time.

LAKES AND THE SEAS BEYOND

Historic Armenia is land-locked. None of its boundaries bordered a sea or an ocean for more than a few short years. Great mountain ranges and some rapid, unnavigable rivers formed Armenia's natural boundaries. Tradesmen, soldiers and travelers of all kinds had to climb and struggle through the mountain passes to reach the sea. For this reason, Armenians have not been sailors, except on a small scale on their own lakes. Armenian merchants carried goods for export by over-land caravans using horses, camels and mules to inland cities, and to the closest ports of Trebizond on the Black Sea and to Baku on the Caspian. From these ports, foreign sailors, especially Greeks, sailed Armenian goods to Constantinople (Istanbul) and on to other great world trade centers.

Three lakes were important to Armenia, however. The earliest kingdom in Armenia was developed around *Lake Van*. The second group of city kingdoms grew up around the lake that still forms the center of Armenia today, *Lake Sevan*. The west shore of *Lake Urmia* once formed the southeast border of Armenia.

The lakes, like the rest of the plateau, are high above sea level. Many streams flowing into them from the mountains keep the water level high.

Lake Sevan, the smallest of the three lakes (512 square miles), is known for its fresh water that comes from some thirty mountain streams which flow into the lake from the surrounding



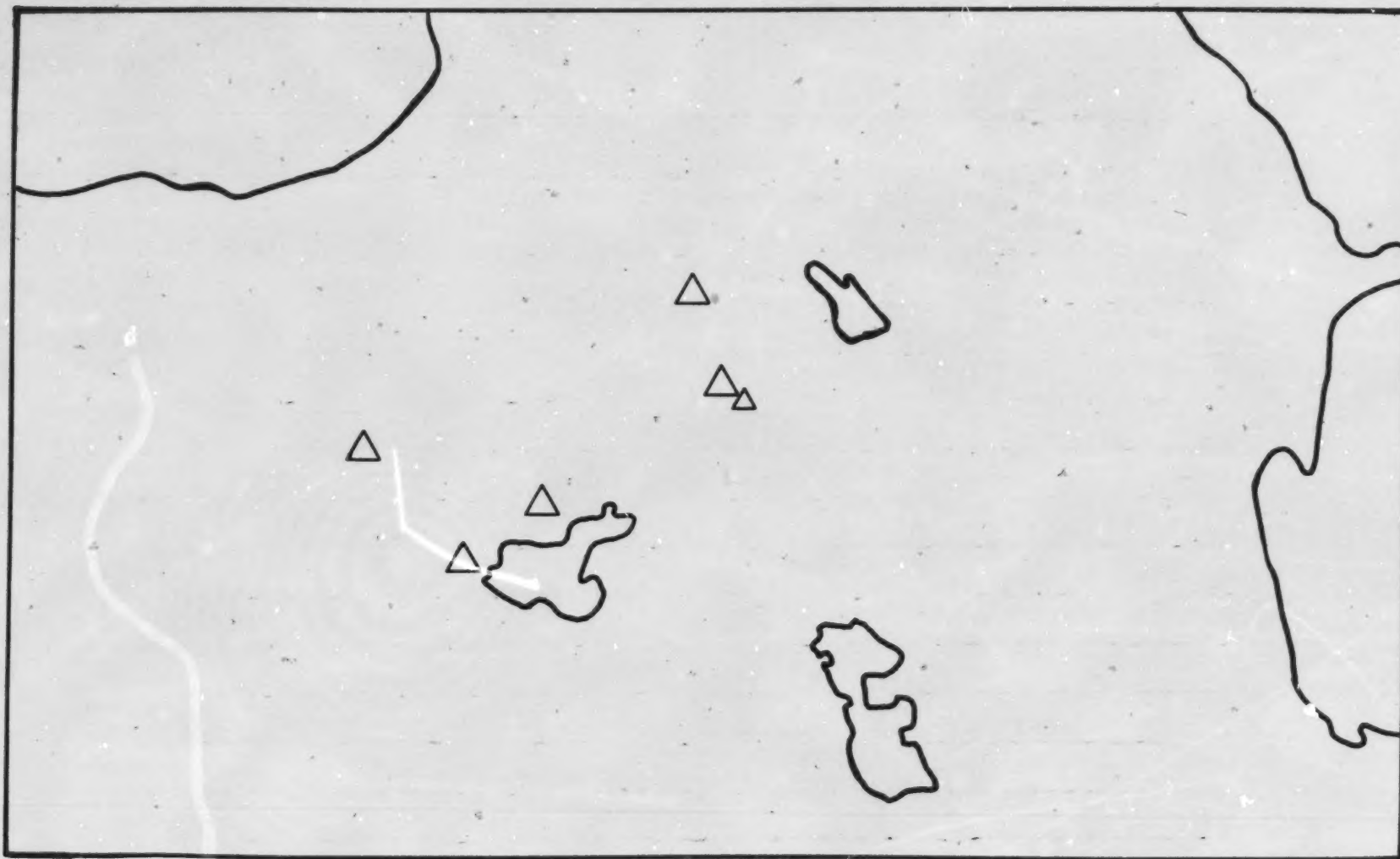
Lake Sevan — One of the highest sizeable fresh-water lakes in the world, located at an elevation of 6,300 feet. In the foreground is the 9th century Apostles' Chapel on the Sevan Peninsula.

mountains. It is also famous for its Ishkhan (or Prince) Fish, a type of salmon-trout.

Lake Van in the south-west is almost three times as large as Lake Sevan. It covers some 1,460 square miles. A boat must travel 75 miles from one end of it to another. It lies high among mountains from which flow several rivers into the lake. The lake has no outlets, however, and it is rich with soda salts. It tastes too bitter to drink, but it is very good for bathing! Local villagers evaporate the lake water in shallow pans and sell the remaining soda-salts for laundry purposes.

Lake Urmia is listed in the *Almanac* as among the world's largest lakes. It covers 1,815 square miles. It has no outlets and is so salty that fish cannot live in it and swimmers can float without effort.

ARMENIA'S LAKES AND NEIGHBORING SEAS — WORKSHEET 3



1. After you complete the reading on page 15, color the three lakes and two seas blue.
2. Label the lakes and the seas.
3. For review, label the five highest peaks of Armenia.

(continued on other side)

2

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (Continuation of Worksheet 3)

1. Why were the Caspian and Black Seas important to the Armenians? What, do you think, were the advantages and disadvantages of sea trade routes? _____



Sketch of the
Mount Nimrud
crater (above);

Ishkhan fish from
Lake Sevan (left);

Lake Van from the
island of Aghtamar
(right).



RIVERS

Armenia is very fortunate to be criss-crossed with many rivers and streams. They water its fertile volcanic soil; provide fresh drinking water not only for Armenia but also for export; and supply the energy to turn the turbines which provide electricity to all Armenia.

The rivers and river valleys were also important because they were Armenia's first "roads". The earliest tribes that occupied ancient Armenia entered from the west and settled along the rivers. These "roadways" also helped Armenia to become an important trading nation in ancient and medieval times. Ancestors of Armenians were among the first miners of the world and were famous for exporting their copper, gold, silver and iron. Their horses, pastured in the highlands, were also sought by other nations. The river valleys, running primarily east-west, made Armenia a roadway for medieval trading caravans between the Mediterranean and the Far East. Unfortunately, they also have been the highways by which powerful invading armies marched in the same directions throughout Armenia's history.

Five major rivers begin in the mountains of historic Armenia. They are the *Arax*, the *Herazdan* and the two best known rivers of south-west Asia, the *Tigris* and the two main tributaries of the *Euphrates*. The fifth river, the *Koor*, whose northern tributary is in Armenia, is located in the valley between the two main Caucasus Mountain ranges beyond Armenia's north-eastern border.

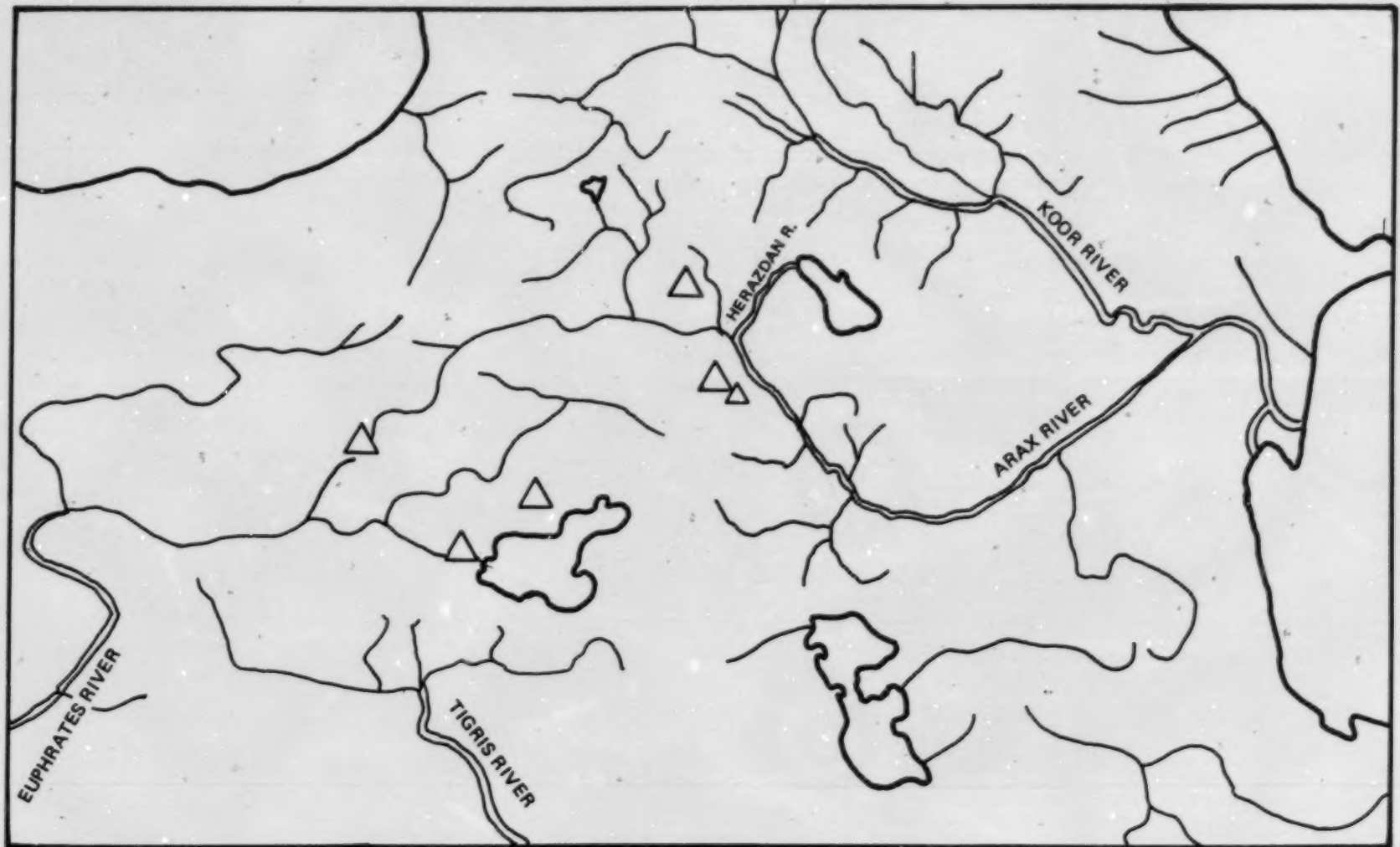
The *Arax* is the longest and most important river within Armenia. It is called the "Mayr" or "Mother River" because it waters much of Armenia's farmlands. Major Armenian cities were built along its shores and many important events in Armenia's history occurred there. It is a "folk" river, praised in poems, song and legend through the ages. Today it forms the borderline between Armenia, Iran and Turkey.

The *Herazdan* (or *Zangoo*) River flows out of Lake Sevan, through today's capital city of Yerevan, and into the *Arax* River. It is this river which provides electric power for most of the country.

The great *Euphrates River* is formed by two major branches, or tributary rivers which begin in the mountains of historic Armenia and then join one another, flowing as one and forming the westernmost border of historic Armenia. In spite of its rapid flow, the *Euphrates* provided means for trade in ancient times with Armenia's neighbors to the south through the use of rafts on the swiftly flowing waters. Important farmlands and cities were developed along its banks.

The other great river of south-west Asia, the *Tigris*, begins in the mountains in southern Armenia. It also provided the means for communication in both war and peace with southern neighbors.

MAJOR RIVERS OF HISTORIC ARMENIA — WORKSHEET 4



1. Color Armenia's 5 major rivers and their tributaries blue.
2. Color the lakes and the seas blue also.

Continuation of Worksheet 4

3. Label the lakes, seas and mountain peaks.
4. Color a strip of land on either side of each river green to show the fertile farming areas of the river valleys. Color brown strips of land along the small tributaries to show the steep and rocky areas where the tributaries begin.

QUESTION FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

Why, do you think, were the first settlements and kingdoms in the Armenian highlands established around lakes and rivers? What are the two main advantages of these areas?

SCALE MODEL — LAKES, RIVERS AND PLAINS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Water colors or tempera paints in blue, brown or gray, green, white and black.
- Large and fine water color brushes.
- Paper cups for diluting the water colors, if necessary.
- A carving tool — a knife, screwdriver or large nail will also do the job.

COLOR THE LANDSCAPE

8. Carve out the lakes and seas about 1/8 inch to symbolize their depth. If you are using cardboard or any other hard material do not carve out the lakes; simply paint them blue when the time comes.
9. Paint the lakes and rivers blue using a very fine brush for the rivers and their tributaries.
10. Paint the mountains and peaks an appropriate color such as brown or gray.
11. Again put the map in a safe place to dry.

12. Paint the valleys and plateaus green. As in worksheets 4 (page 20) and 5 (page 24), indicate the more fertile lands along the rivers by painting them a darker green and show the rocky and more barren areas near the mountains and along the tributaries by painting them brown or gray. This would also be a good time to paint some snow on top of the mountains and peaks.



**SCALE MODEL INSTRUCTIONS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 29**

MOUNTAIN RANGES AND VALLEYS

The map on the opposite page shows you how historic Armenia was criss-crossed by long chains of high mountain ranges. Four ranges were of particular importance. The *Pontus Range* separated Armenia from the Black Sea on the north; the *Armenian (East) Taurus Range* formed Armenia's southern border; while the *Caucasus Range* separates both historic and present day Armenia from the Koor Valley of its northeastern neighbors. The country is further divided into sections by other mountain ranges, principally the *Bingol Range* that separates the Western Euphrates Valley from the Eastern Euphrates Valley.

Between these great ranges are the plateaus, plains and lower river valleys where Armenia's cities and farmlands developed.

The *Plain of Ararat* is the largest and most fertile of the plains. It stretches west of Lake Sevan between the mountain peaks of Mount Aragatz to the north and Mount Ararat to its south.

South of the Ararat Plain is the lower *Valley of the Arax* and the *Hayotz (or Armenian) Valley*, of the Lake Van region.



Armenia's capital city of Yerevan is located in the middle of the Ararat plain, some 30 miles from Mount Ararat.

VALLEYS, PLATEAUS AND MOUNTAIN RANGES — WORKSHEET 5



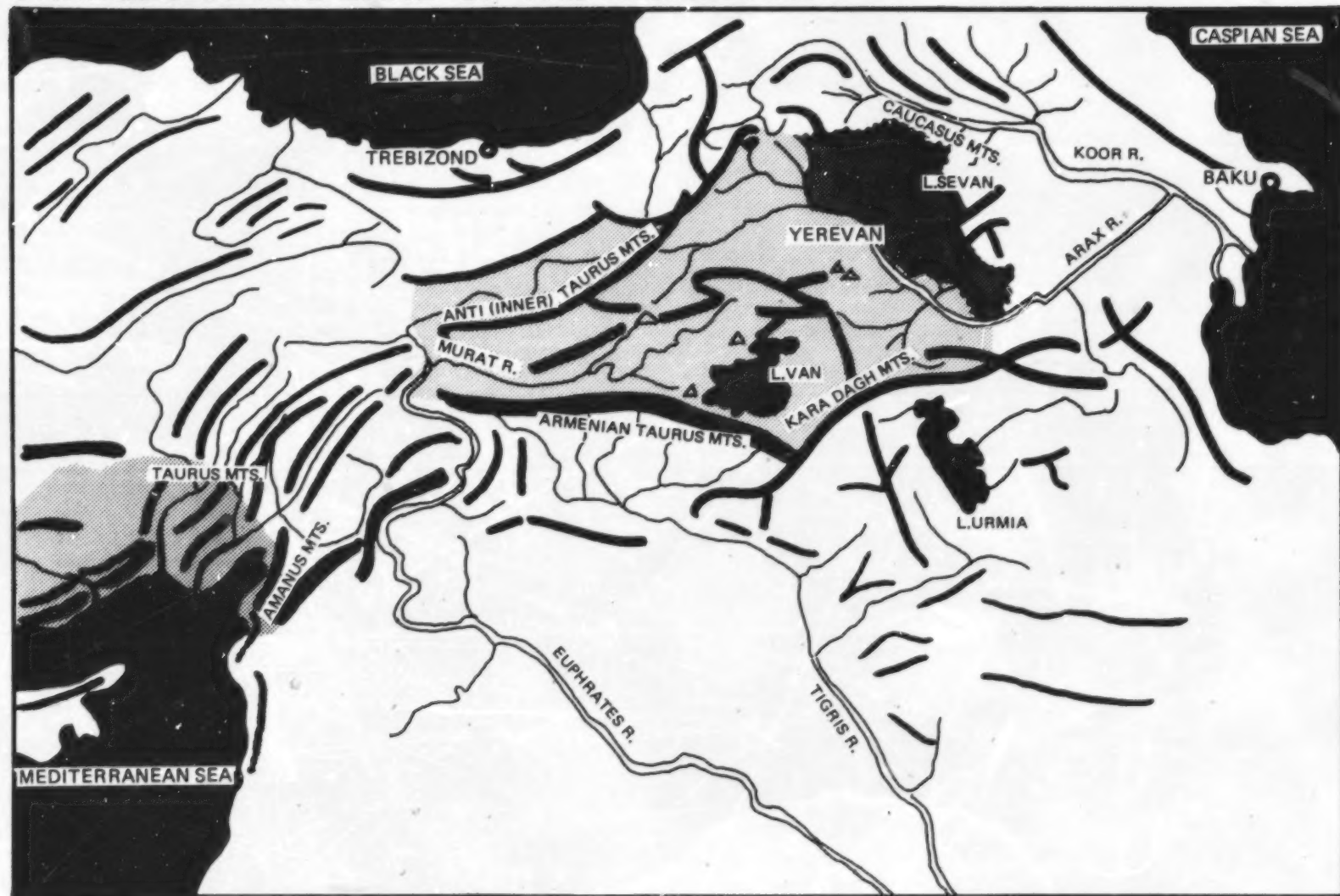
1. Color the lakes, seas and rivers *blue*.
2. Color the plateaus, plains and river valleys between the mountain ranges *green*. Graduate your green colors from dark, in the valleys, to light and even *light brown* or *gray* near the mountains and along the small tributaries to show that there is less plant growth in these areas.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM PROJECT

If the construction of the topographic map is too difficult for younger students, or if your classroom time is limited, you can substitute the construction activity with a simpler project of coloring the large enclosed map as a wall display following the same readings and instructions.

REFERENCE MAP:

CHANGES IN THE LAND OF THE ARMENIANS



-  ARMENIA S.S.R. (1921 - PRESENT)
-  HISTORIC ARMENIAN HOMELAND
-  CILICIAN-ARMENIAN KINGDOM (12-14TH CENTURIES)

Activity Suggestion: Locate the three cities on this map onto the enclosed map of Historic Armenia. Using the scale on the map, measure the distance between any two of the cities and calculate the the distance ancient travelers must have crossed between the same two cities, going along river valleys and avoiding climbing mountains.

A LAND OF MANY NATURAL WORLDS

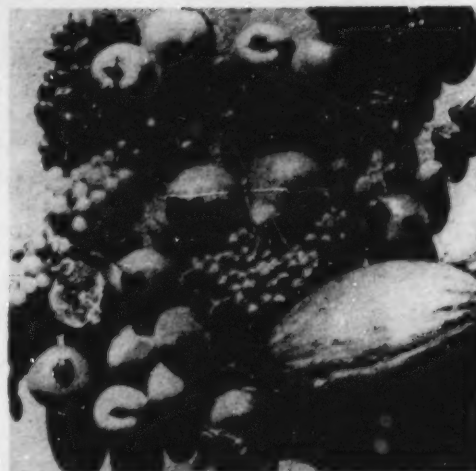
Armenia is a small country but its numerous mountains and great variations in land elevations cause it to be a land of great contrasts in temperature and climate. Summers may be hot and humid causing everyone to seek shade and water away from the valleys' 90°F heat. Winters are usually bitter cold with temperatures going below zero. Heavy winter snows stay in the mountains and high plateaus well into the spring. Snow caps Mount Ararat even in summertime, while a near-tropical climate creates marsh lands along the eastern stretch of the Arax River.

Each mountain range thus creates a new natural world causing Armenia to have a greater variety of plants and animals than most regions of this size. Scientists have listed 3,200 different kinds of plants, 76 kinds of mammals, 304 kinds of birds, 44 types of snakes and other reptiles, and 24 species of fish.

In ancient times forests covered the country, but due to continuous felling of trees and the eating of new shoots by goats, less than one tenth remain. In Soviet Armenia today new forests are being planted and protected. Common trees are oak, poplar, beech, ash, maple, walnut and plane trees. Small forests of pine and spruce exist in the north.

Of the 450 kinds of vertebrate animals the most common domestic animals seen are sheep,

Archeologists believe that grapes, pears, apricots, quince, almonds, figs, cantaloupes and the cereal, rye, originated in the region of Armenia and Persia.



goats, rabbits, cattle and horses. There are a surprising number of wild animals even today. Wolves and jackals are well known even in highly populated Soviet Armenia. Other common wild animals are a wild jungle cat (found in the reeds of the Arax River), squirrels, fox, bats, rodents and snakes of various types.

Leopards, panthers, porcupines, hyenas, polecats, wild boar, deer, mountain goats, otter, fox, weasels and some bears also may be found. On the next page are some pictures of a few of the most common animals. You may look in a good picture encyclopedia to see what the others look like. Look under "A" for Animals of the World and also in other volumes related to the names of each animal.

ANIMALS OF ARMENIA (WORKSHEET 6)



FAT-TAILED SHEEP



SALMON TROUT



JACKAL



HORSE



LOCUST



BLUNT-NOSED VIPER



WHITE-THROATED
NIGHTINGALE



ARAX RIVER WILD CAT

Color the animals above and mount them on toothpicks to stick them in appropriate places on your large topographic map of Historic Armenia (see directions on page 29). You can add your own sketches of animals mentioned on page 27 but not pictured above.

SCALE MODEL — COMPLETE AND CONTINUE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Scissors, pins, paper, pencil, toothpicks and glue.
- Yarn in 3 or 4 different colors.

NAMES AND LABELS

Once you complete painting your topographic map, you can label all the geographic features that you have constructed and painted.

13. Make the labels by writing the name of each river, mountain range, peak, lake, valley and plateau on a small strip of paper.
14. Paste down the labels along the length of the mountains or rivers and next to, or on, the lakes. In the case of the peaks, paste each label across one end of a toothpick and insert the other end on, or next to, the peak. Fix the toothpick in position with a drop of glue at its base.

PLACE THE ANIMALS

15. After you have colored, cut out and mounted the animals on page 28 on toothpicks, fix them in different parts of the Armenian highlands wherever you think they would be most likely to be found.

CITIES AND BOUNDARIES

The topographic map you have just completed will be useful in your study of different events in Armenia's history. Located as it was on the crossroads of ancient and medieval civilizations, Armenia was constantly at odds with expanding empires. As a result, from time to time its borders changed and ancient cities were destroyed or abandoned giving way to new cities.

You can follow these changes and other important historical events by marking them on your map. You can indicate Armenia's different borders, for example, by pasting down different color yarn. You can use the same colors to label the cities that developed during each period. Trade and migration routes and battle sites can similarly be shown. At the end you will have a colorful summary of Armenian history overlaid on your model of the Armenian highlands.



FOR FURTHER READING

The sources below were useful to the authors of this booklet. They may be of interest to teachers and parents, as well.

Aslanyan, Bagdasaryan, et. al. **SOVIET ARMENIA** 5-56
Translated from Russian by David Myshne
Progress Publishers, Moscow 1971

Babessian, **THE HISTORICAL ATLAS OF ARMENIA** Soviet Armenia 1961

Der Nersessian, S. **THE ARMENIANS: Ancient Peoples and Places Series**
Thames and Hudson, London 1969. Chp. 1.

Lang, D.M. **ARMENIA: CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION**
George Allen and Unwin Ltd. London 1970. Preface and Chp. 1.

Lynch, H.F. B. **ARMENIA TRAVELS AND STUDIES** Vol. I and II
Khayats' Book and Publishing Co. Reprints 1967 Beirut, Lebanon
(original: London 1901)

Ohanian and Cherkezian **SOVIET ARMENIA'S GEOGRAPHY**
Yerevan 1971 (In Armenian)

Serebryakov, **A SYMPHONY IN STONE**
Progress Publishers, Moscow 1974 (In English, Armenian, Russian)

WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA Vol. 13 (p. 742-743): Color Diagram of comparative sizes of the world's largest mountain peaks.
Field Enterprises Educational Corporation Chicago, U.S.A. 1965.

Adelsen, C. "Land of Great Ararat: Turkey's Forbidden Territory"
THE GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE December 1969.

Tumanyan, Akop "Karastan: Land of Rock and Stone" **SOVIET LIFE** March 1968 17-23.

Armenian Ethnic Heritage Project

Sponsored by the Armenian Relief Society – Funded by the United States Office of Education



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The staff of the Armenian Ethnic Heritage Project is grateful to the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), 392 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts for allowing us unlimited access to its facility and extensive use of its rich collection of books and materials in the preparation of these publications.

Children and teachers in the schools listed below participated in the trial teaching of some or all of the lessons in this booklet. Their efforts, questions and suggestions are gratefully appreciated.

FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOL, Lexington, Mass.

A.G.B.U. DAY SCHOOL, Watertown, Mass.

NERSES SHNORHALI ARMENIAN SCHOOL, Fairfield, Conn.

SAHAG-MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH SCHOOL, Providence, R.I.

SAHAG-MESROB ARMENIAN SCHOOL, Watertown, Mass.

ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN SCHOOL, North Andover, Mass.

ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL, Watertown, Mass.

ST. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN SCHOOL, Ridgefield, N.J.

PHOTOS, MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS:

Illustration on page 28 – Juanita Soghikian

Maps on pages 6, 16, 20, 24, 26 and foldout – Mossik Hacobian and Juanita Soghikian from *Soviet Armenia* by Aslanyan; *Armenia: Travels and Studies* by Lynch; Grigorian, A. *Armenian History*, Alik Publishing House, Tehran 1957 (in Armenian).

Map on page 14 – 1965 World Book Encyclopedia

Photos on the cover, page 12 (bottom) and page 18 (lower left) – Manassian, S. and Mardigian, M. *Soviet Armenia's 40 Years*, Yerevan 1960.

Page 2 – Avo Yessayan (Toronto), courtesy of Garbis Zerdalian (Garbo Typesetting Co.)

Pages 8, 27 and 29 – Bob Nakashian; from A.R.S. Armenian Ethnic Heritage teachers' workshop, Sept. 1975.

Page 9 – *Soviet Armenia Magazine* (in Armenian), January 1970, page 34.

Page 12 (top) – Mossik Hacobian

Page 15 – Armenian Friends Coalition; 1969 photo by Robert Maksudian.

Page 18 (top left) – *Armenia: Travels and Studies* by Lynch; (right) *Documents of Armenian Architecture No. 8 – Aghtamar*, Milan and Armenia S.S.R. n.d.

Page 23 – *Soviet Life Magazine*, March 1968.

Page 27 photo and cover quotation – Serekryakov, K. *A Symphony in Stone*, Progress Publishers, Moscow 1974.

Materials Available From the Armenian Ethnic Heritage Project of the A.R.S.

1. MY ORIGINS: Recording Family History

An Introduction to the ideas of generations, family tree and plotting one's own family history and migration route to America. Includes worksheets and crossword puzzle review of basic concepts.

2. LAND OF THE ARMENIANS

A study of Armenia's mountains, lakes, rivers and plateaus through the construction of a relief map. Includes worksheets and photographs.

3. DISCOVERING HISTORY THROUGH ARTIFACTS: Kingdom of Tigran II "The Great"

How we can learn about earlier times by closely studying the artifacts people have left behind. Includes worksheets and photographs.

4. ELEMENTS OF ARMENIAN CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

A study of Armenian church architecture through the construction of a model of a 7th century church. Includes worksheets and photographs.

5. KHATCHKARS: Armenian Stone Crosses

Learning about a uniquely Armenian sculptural form by carving a plaster khatchkar (stone cross). Includes photographs.

6. MEDIEVAL ARMENIAN COSTUMES

A study of Medieval Armenian history and its costumes. Includes figures and costumes to be colored and cut out.

7. SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ARMENIA

Learning about Armenia today by matching sounds on a cassette recording with sights pictured in a booklet about Soviet Armenia.

8. THEY CAME FROM ARARAT

An 80-slide presentation and accompanying cassette with narration and music on the origins and development of the Armenian community in America.

Note: All Materials include specific project directions.